

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Tourne (US 2002/0176671 A1). The examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended above to clarify applicants' claimed invention. In particular, claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled and their features have been added to claim 1. Claim 1 now claims that the coupling device includes an area comprising an optical component for providing the first optical path.

From the examiner's rejection, it is not clear what element in Tourne the examiner considers equivalent to applicants' claimed "coupling device".

1. If we assume that the coupling device corresponds to element 120 (female connector) in Tourne, then element 120 does not include "an area comprising an optical component for providing said first optical path". At the most, element 120 comprises a tapered passageway adapted to receive a corresponding tapered male connector portion.

2. If we regard that the coupling device is element 130 (interface body) in Tourne, then element 130 does not include a first reference means "adapted to co-operate with second reference means (20) in said layer stack (1) for aligning said coupling device (8) to said waveguide (2) or waveguide structure (3) in both the x-and y-direction of said x-y plane". Indeed it is stated in Tourne that the interface body is embedded into the layer

stack [0028] and that the anchor member (135) are used to provide enhanced mechanical stability inside the multilayer circuit board [0033]. Nowhere is mentioned x-y plane alignment problem in connection with the interface body 130.

Claim 1, on the other hand, claims that the second reference means is adapted for aligning the coupling device to the waveguide or waveguide structure in both the x- and y-direction of the x-y plane as to optically couple the first optical path and the second optical path, wherein the coupling device includes an area comprising an optical component for providing the first optical path. This is not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though the claims dependent upon claim 1 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.


Independent claim 27 has been amended above to clarify applicants' claimed invention. As amended, claim 27 claims that the coupling device includes an area comprising an optical component providing at least a portion of the first optical path which is aligned over a deflection point between the second optical path and the first optical path. In Tourne, the female connector portion 120 does not have an area comprising an optical component as claimed in claim 27. Thus, the method of claim 27 (wherein the coupling

device includes an area comprising an optical component providing at least a portion of the first optical path which is aligned over a deflection point between the second optical path and the first optical path) is not disclosed or suggested in Tourne. The features of claim 27 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited art. Therefore, claim 27 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though the claims dependent upon claim 27 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 27. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


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